

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a service provider in a computer network, comprising:

performing a transaction, by a client computer, with a first service provider, the first service provider being a server computer;

automatically collecting feedback data pertaining to the transaction;

transmitting, to a directory service, a request for a provider of a second service, the directory service including a UDDI server configured to execute a UDDI protocol;

transmitting, to the directory service, at least a portion of the feedback data from the transaction involving the first service provider; and

receiving, from the directory service, a response based on the second service request, and the at least a portion of the feedback data, and the UDDI protocol, wherein the response comprises one or more a plurality of service locations; and

~~selecting, by the client, from the plurality of service locations a desired service location based on the at least a portion of feedback data.~~

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the feedback data comprises an evaluation of a service provided by the first service provider.

46. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the feedback data comprises data representing a negative rating of the first service provider.

47. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the feedback data comprises data representing a positive rating of the first service provider.

48. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the feedback data comprises a quality of content provided by the first service provider.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising:
receiving, from the client computer, a second feedback data pertaining to a transaction between by the client computer and one or more service providers; and
transmitting, to the directory service, the second feedback data, wherein the response is at least in part based on the second feedback data.

51–67. (Cancelled).

68. (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising automatically selecting, solely by the client computer, from the one or more service locations, a service location based on the at least a portion of feedback data.

69. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the feedback data comprises connection characteristics.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the connection characteristics include one or more of measured latency, network path used for a connection, bandwidth, response time, and dropped packets.

71. (New) A method for determining a computer service provider in a network, comprising:

monitoring, in the network, an electronic transaction involving a client computer and a first computer service provider, the first computer service provider configured to provide the client computer with a first service, the network including a directory service device and at least one data collector device;

automatically collecting feedback data by the at least one data collector device, the feedback data pertaining to the electronic transaction;

receiving in the directory service device a service request for a location of one or more computer service providers configured to provide a second service;

transmitting, from the at least one data collector device to the directory service device, at least a portion of the automatically collected feedback data; and

transmitting, from the directory service device, a response based on the service request and the at least a portion of the automatically collected feedback data, wherein the response comprises one or more locations of computer service providers.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the directory service device includes a UDDI server configured to execute a UDDI protocol.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the UDDI server executes the UDDI protocol to generate the response comprising the one or more locations of computer service providers.

74. (New) A network apparatus for providing service locations to a client computer, the network apparatus comprising:

a data collector configured to receive feedback data associated with one or more transactions between one or more client computers and one or more computer service providers;

a data repository coupled to the data collector, the data repository including a data storage device for storing the feedback data collected by the data collector;

a UDDI server including a UDDI registry, the UDDI registry including information associated with the one or more computer service providers, the UDDI server configured to execute a UDDI protocol to generate a list of service locations for one or more of the computer service providers in response to a request from the client computer, the list of service locations based at least in part on the feedback data stored in the data repository and the information associated with the computer service providers.

75. (New) The network apparatus of claim 74, wherein the network apparatus is a traffic manager on a network.

76. (New) The network apparatus of claim 74, wherein the feedback data includes computer connection characteristics.

77. (New) The network apparatus of claim 76, wherein the computer connection characteristics include at least one of measured latency and network path used for a connection.

78. (New) The network apparatus of claim 76, wherein the computer connection characteristics include at least one of bandwidth, response time, and dropped packets.